

Joseph (1:18-25) (2:13-23)

How many of you have a maturely scene your mother set out every Christmas. Little figurines of the shepherds, wise men, Joseph, Mary, & Jesus. Every one of them are doing something but one. Shepherds are coming in from the hills, Wise men are carrying gifts, Mary is tending to the baby Jesus. But Joseph is just kinda standing there. I know how he feels, when my kids were born all I could do was just stand there. I think that is why Joseph is after thought of as the best of all the Christmas story characters, but in actuality he is one of the most important. There are several things I'd like to point out about Joseph.

I. Joseph was Sensitive - When Mary got word she was going to have the baby Jesus an angel appeared to her. But Joseph had several dreams. Now I have had some pretty crazy dreams in my day. None of them were what I thought were divine revelation, you probably have too. Our dreams are probably from eating Krystal ~~bars~~ hamburgers too late at night. But before there was a complete Bible, God often spoke through dreams & visions. Joseph was sensitive to when God was speaking to Him, are you?

II. Joseph was Submissive - Joseph was in a real ~~rough~~ tough place in his life. Although he had been honorable and had been good when it came to his frame, in the eyes of every one else he was looked down on. People probably whispered about him, spread lies. Joseph didn't ask for this. He was doing the right thing. But when he realized that what was happening was for his good and God's great purposes, he submitted. ^{Respect} He submitted when told to move to a foreign land, where he didn't know any body, where his life was at risk. That leads us to the last

III. Joseph was Selfless (2:19-23)
Joseph's directness was to that of Judea, maybe to Bethany or even Bethlehem. But the safety of his family was more important his choice of where to live. So he decided to live in Nazareth. Now you may think that is great because Nazareth is always associated with Jesus name. But you would be wrong. Nazareth was the worst of the worst places to live. Its reputation was so bad that one of the disciples said "Can anything good come out of Naz." It was a selfless act of putting what is ^{First} important

IV. Close - Being a father is not easy. Hard decisions to make, difficult choices. It's not easy being a believer either. ^{Selfless} ~~Positive Submissive~~